Development of Backwater tourism in Kerala

461. SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any project for the development of Backwater tourism in Kerala is pending for sanction; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the time by when the project is likely to be sanctioned?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The State Government of Kerala submitted a multi-disciplinary project profile costing Rs. 154.67 Crores which could not be considered for funding by the Government of India under its tourism infrastructure development scheme in view of resource constraints. Government of Kerala has been advised to submit a project under the Equity Scheme and a background note for a multi departmental meeting in the Government of India.

However, Government of India have sanctioned all the 15 proposals submitted during first four years of IXth Plan period for Rs. 698.00 Lakhs for Kerala for development of Backwater tourism.

Running of Hotel Ashok, Bangalore by its employees on lease basis

462. SHRI K.C. KONDAIAH: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the employees of Hotel Ashok, Bangalore have requested Government to allow them to run the hotel on lease basis without any further loss of Government; and

(b) if, so the action if any, taken on their request?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) and (b) The information is being collected.